Natural Sciences Chairs Council

October 4, 2021

1:00pm – 3:00pm

In Attendance: M. Chao, K. Cousins, K. Dajani, C. Todd, L. Mian, B. Haddock, M. Jetter, T. Burch, J. Torner, G. Escalante, D. Maynard, D. Rinebolt, T. Valencia, S. McGill, S. Pantula, R. Hernandez

Guests: T. Carollo and A. Kanatsu

New Dashboards – Tanner Carollo

* Tanner Carollo gave a presentation on the dashboards that are available for chairs.

Approval of Minutes – September 20, 2021

* Minutes of the September 20th meeting were approved.

Announcements by Chairs

* Dr. Chao reported the Biology Department has successfully submitted an NIH T32 training grant to bridge MS students to PhD programs, in collaboration with USC, UCR, and UCI.
* Dr. Chao reported that Ben Cook, founder and owner of the Hanger 24 Brewery in Redlands, has returned to CSUSB to complete his degree (expected this semester). He will be presenting a seminar talking about his business (both the technology side and the entrepreneurial side) this Friday at noon (zoom event).
* Dr. Torner reported that the Physics Department had a student in a large lecture test positive for Covid. He explained the difficulties faced with notifying students of this as well as making adjustments to lab sections to accommodate everyone.
* Dr. Haddock reported that the Kinesiology Department is working on getting their liability form signed by all students enrolled in their classes. This has been a huge undertaking for their staff. He is hoping he can get it to where the form is a part of the registration for a kinesiology class process. Dr. Torner mentioned that the EHS lab training form is also a lot of work for the physics department. He would like the EHS lab training form submitted as a part of the enrolling in class process.
* Dr. Dajani reported the School of Computer Science and Engineering is working on their two open positions. He is working with Ms. Valencia on the hiring of an ASC for the department. The department has also received approval for the hiring of another faculty member and he is beginning the process for that.
* Dr. Dajani also reported that the CSE Department is working on a grant with UCLA.
* Dr. Todd reported the Geology Department is working on their search for a new faculty member.
* Dr. Todd also reported the Geology Department is undergoing a program review.
* Dr. Mian reported the HSCI Department has received approval for their Nutrition Science masters program.
* Dr. Mian also reported that he is working on the three searches the department has in process. They are searching for a chair, an ASA and an EHS faculty member.
* Dr. Cousins reported that she had received a request from SSD in the 6th week of class.
* Dr. Cousins reported that Dr. Joyce Pham had received VETI funds and is purchasing our campus’ first ever single-crystal x-ray diffractometer.
* Dr. Cousins reported that the S-STEM program had received their first site visit and they received positive feedback from them.
* Dr. Jetter shared their new ASC, Deborah Solis, has started in their department.
* Dr. Jetter also reported they are beginning their search for an additional faculty member.

Announcements by Administration

* Ms. Valencia reported that she is working on the departments’ O&E budgets this week.
* Ms. Valencia reminded the chairs to encourage their tenure track faculty to utilize the $1,000 faculty development money that has been allocated for them. Encourage them to charge this to their class accounts and the money will be moved as needed, split with the department.
* Dr. Escalante reported the STEM Center has made offers to 5 counselors and 7 student assistants.
* Dr. Escalante reported that he and Dr. Maynard have been working on finishing up the proposed new curriculums for the BA in Biohealth Science and the BA in Natural Science with concentrations in Biology, Chemistry, Geology, Physics and Science & Society. They will be submitting paperwork to the Associate Provost to request the curriculum be approved and put on the schedule for Fall 2022.
* Ms. Rinebolt asked chairs to be aware that classroom visits are being assigned now. They will be copied on the emails to the visitors and the visitees.
* Mr. Hernandez reported that he has recently met with the College of Education to discuss the Celebration of Teaching event.
* Mr. Hernandez also gave an overview of the events the college will have for the Homecoming Celebration taking place next week. There will be a Pie the Dean event, an opportunity for folks to tour the observatory and a performance by the Science Rapper, Baba Brinkman.
* Dr. McGill gave an update on the schedule of classes. October 11th the schedule for winter intersession will be available to students. Registration will begin November 8th. November 1st, students will be able to begin registering for spring semester classes.
* Dr. McGill urged chairs to make sure their faculty teaching online classes have had the proper training.
* Dr. McGill reminded the chairs to be sure and have the discussion with faculty about the role of hybrid and online courses in their program(s). Departmental statements about this should be uploaded as P-form attachment if the program intends to offer any online or hybrid courses on a regular basis, and updated C-forms should be submitted for any courses that will be offered in online or hybrid mode on a regular basis.
* Dr. McGill also asked chairs to email her if they have opinions on whether the best way to ensure that we meet the WSCUC requirement that students cannot graduate with 50% of their classes being online classes would be (a) to ensure that <50% of courses in any program are approved for online delivery on their C-form, or (b) to ask Dr. Weber to speak with ITS about the possibility of designing a system to include the % of online courses in each student’s PAWS report.
* Dr. McGill reported that on the 1st day of classes for the fall semester the waitlist was purged. She asked chairs what they thought about that. Dr. Cousins replied that it would be helpful if chairs were notified of the students on the waitlist so they could decide how to move forward.
* Dr. Pantula spoke with the chairs about fund raising activities. He would like the chairs to let him know items the college needs that we want to raise funds for. He also announced that Terri Carlos, our development officer has retired.
* Dr. Pantula asked the chairs to speak with their faculty about the professional development funds and the importance of them being used in a timely manner.
* Dr. Pantula reported that Mr. Hernandez is currently working on getting our college its own intranet.
* Dr. Pantula informed the chairs that educational consultant, Gita Bosch will be on campus to present seminars on diversity and student success. October 21st she will speak on IDP (Individual Development Plan) for undergraduate students from noon to 1 p.m., and on faculty diversity from 3 to 4 p.m. On October 22nd she will hold a training workshop for a select group of faculty members. Dean Pantula informed chairs that representatives from each department are needed and Dr. Maynard is collecting the names for the workshop.
* Dr. Pantula spoke with the chairs about student success and diversity, and the idea of forming two committees within the college to work on that. Dr. Cousins pointed out that the Faculty Senate is really struggling with finding faculty willing to fill all the empty positions on committees and this would probably be a problem if they try to establish yet another committee.